MINUTES

OF

THE BUSINESS SESSIONS

FOR

Tuesday, October 16, 1923

National Council of the Congregational Churches

at

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

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DAILY REPORT OF MINUTES

National Council of the Congregational Churches
Springfield, Mass.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1923

The Twentieth Regular Meeting of the National Council of the Congregational Churches of the United States convened promptly at 2.00 o'clock, Tuesday afternoon, October 16, 1923, on the call of the retiring Moderator, Reverend William E. Barton, D. D., of Illinois, in the First Congregational Church of Springfield, Massachusetts.

The devotional service was conducted by Reverend William G. Ballantine, D. D., of Massachusetts, who read the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians as the Scripture lesson, and by Reverend Frank Hugh Foster, D. D., of Ohio, who offered prayer.

The Council then joined in singing the well-known Congregational hymn by Dr. Leonard Bacon, "O God Beneath Thy Guiding Hand."

The following Board of Tellers was appointed by the Moderator: Messrs. Hood of New Jersey, Warren of South Dakota, Atwood of Missouri, Milne of Illinois, Kiplinger of Ohio, Holmes of Nebraska, and Dyer of California.

Reverend Rockwell H. Potter of Connecticut placed the name of Hon. John H. Whitehead of Wisconsin in nomination for Moderator. This nomination was seconded by Reverend H. L. Bailey of Massachusetts. Rev. G. T. McCullom of Illinois nominated Enos H. Bigelow, M. D., of Massachusetts; seconded by H. K. Warren of South Dakota. Reverend Harry Peabody of Wisconsin spoke in support of Mr. Whitehead and Rev. Israel Ainsworth spoke in support of Dr. Bigelow. Rev. Chester B. Emerson of Michigan placed the name of Rev. Rockwell H. Potter of Connecticut in nomination for Moderator; seconded by Rev. H. E. Brown of Illinois.

While the ballots for Moderator were being counted the Fisk Jubilee Singers rendered several selections and Secretary Charles E. Burton, by common consent, presented a docket and motions relating to the routine of the meetings which were adopted as follows:

Voted: That the provisional docket contained in the printed program be approved as indicating the general order of the Council's business; action in modification of the same, or in fixing specific hours for reports or business, to be taken on recommendation of the Business Committee.

Voted: That the following matters be referred to the Business Committee for their consideration and proper instruction to the Council:

The Memorial from the Massachusetts Conference on Peace Instruction printed in the Grey Book—page 14.

The overture from the Cleveland Association regarding Unity.

The Memorial from the Los Angeles Association regarding revisionary deeds to Congregational Church property.

The Memorial from the Ohio Conference regarding club rates for the Congregationalist and Missionary Magazines.

The Memorial from the Rural Life Discussional held in Concord, New Hampshire, in 1922, asking the appointment of a Country Life Commission.

The several invitations for the next meeting of the Council.

The Memorial from the Wisconsin Conference regarding the Foundation for Education.

Correspondence concerning the relationship between the Federal Council of Churches and the National Council.

Request for presentation of the American Peace Award.

Communication regarding the preservation of sacred places in the Holy Land.

Resolution for a Christ-like and Warless World from Jerome Davis of the American Sociological Society.

Request for photographing the Council.

Request for a hearing on the interests of the Congregationalist.

Recommendations of the special committee on Interracial Relations.

Voted: That when reports and recommendations are made by regularly constituted Commissions and Committees, such presentation shall be equivalent to a motion from the floor and its support without waiting for such formality.

The Tellers reported the election of Rev. Rockwell Harmon Potter, D. D., of Connecticut, as Moderator.

Rev. Hilton Pedley of Japan was elected First Assistant Moderator, and Rev. Charles W. Burton of Illinois was elected Second Assistant Moderator.

The newly-elected officers were escorted to the platform.

Words of appreciation and encouragement were uttered by the Moderator-elect who also offered prayer.

Mr. Clifford B. Potter, Chairman of the Springfield Executive Committee, presented a gavel to be used during the sessions of the Council, which was made from wood taken from one of the former pulpits of the First Church of Springfield.

On the report of the Nominating Committee the following appointments were made:

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Chr. Rev. A. W. Palmer, Honolulu.
Mr. F. D. Richards, St. Johnsbury, Vt.
Rev. Robt. R. Wicks, Holyoke, Mass.
Rev. Wm. D. Street, White Plains, N. Y.
Mr. Geo. M. Herrick, Oak Park, Ill.
Mr. W. D. Balcom, Rochester, N. Y.
Rev. L. H. Keller, Atlanta, Ga.
Mr. Fred M. Wilcox, Los Angeles, Cal.
Mr. A. M. Gibbons, Cleveland, Ohio.

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS

Chr. Rev. Chester D. Emerson, Detroit.
Rev. F. J. Scribner, Wisconsin.
Mr. William C. Weir, Oregon.
Rev. B. D. Evans, Pennsylvania.
Mr. C. D. Heywood, Iowa.

ASSISTANT SECRETARIES

T. J. Spencer, New York.
Loydd Douglas, Ohio.
Geo. Mahlon Miller, New York.
Charles Burger, New York.
Rev. Richard O. Ficken, Ohio.
Harold G. Vincent, Massachusetts.
Enoch Bell, Massachusetts.

Rev. William E. Barton moved that the Nominating Committee be directed to present at an early session a Committee on Findings, to whom shall be referred all resolutions presented to this Council, other than those relating to the organization and business of the Council, such committee to serve during this meeting and make full report before its close, the service of this committee to cease at the end of the present meeting of the Council. Carried.

Rev. Charles Carter of Connecticut, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council called attention to the report of the Executive Committee on pages 13 and 14 of the "Grey Book" and the Council took action as follows:

(1) *Voted:* That the following be appointed corresponding members of the Council: All pastors of Springfield Churches, State Superintendents who are not delegates, Dr. C. Macfarland, Dr. E. B.

Sanford, Dr. Sidney Gulick, Dr. Stanley Morrison, Vice-President of the Australian Council of Congregational Churches, W. S. Gilroy, Ralph Cobleigh and F. W. Lynch.

(2) *Voted:* To receive as fraternal delegates representatives from the German Evangelical Protestant Churches.

(3) *Voted:* That the Council approve the recognition by our churches of the Walloon-Hugenot Tercentenery Celebration on April 24, 1924.

(4) *Voted:* The appointment of a Committee of Five to report within three days as to the number and character of the commissions desirable during the next biennium.

(5) *Voted:* That the National Council commend to the Commission on Missions the wisdom of setting apart 1% of the apportionment to meet our fair quotas in the support of such undenominational causes as the American Bible Society, the Federal Council of Churches, the Protestant Churches of Europe which at present are seeking through appeals to the churches individually, thus obviating the need of such appeals.

(6) *Referred to Business Committee:* That the Council recommend that the per capita contributions of the churches be increased two cents in order to secure a continuance of the present publicity and adequately to sustain the work of the commissions, looking forward to the complete support eventually of the Commission on Evangelism, thereby relieving the Home Missionary Society of the responsibility.

(7) *Voted:* That we refer to the Council the place of the next meeting.

In the absence of the treasurer, Mr. Frank F. Moore, Secretary Charles E. Burton called attention to the Treasurer's report as printed on page 25 of the "Grey Book". This report was referred to the Executive Committee for approval and audit.

A report of the Corporation for the National Council on pages 15 and 16 of the "Grey Book" was submitted by Secretary Charles E. Burton and approved.

The report of the Commission on Polity, pages 61-66 of the "Grey Book" was submitted by the Chairman, Reverend William E. Barton, who gave formal notice that at the earliest possible business session the proposed amendments would be read and acted upon.

On report of the Nominating Committee, the following Commission on Evangelism was appointed to serve during the biennium:

Rev. William Horace Day, Bridgeport, Ct.
Rev. Henry K. Booth, Long Beach, Calif.

Rev. Herman F. Swartz, Berkeley, Calif.
Rev. Edw. I. Bosworth, Oberlin, O.
Rev. Ozora S. Davis, Chicago, Ill.
Rev. Geo. Mahlon Miller, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Rev. Watts O. Pye, Funchow, China.
Rev. H. S. Pedley, Japan.
Rev. Geo. W. C. Hill, New Britain, Ct.
Rev. Horace Holton, Brockton, Mass.
Rev. Robert W. Wicks, Holyoke, Mass.
Rev. D. J. Perrin, Huron, S. D.
Rev. Theodore R. Faville, Madison, Wis.
Rev. Sherrod Soule, 37 Garden St., Hartford, Ct.
Rev. Francis J. Van Horn, Tacoma, Wash.
Rev. Raymond C. Brooks, Clairmont, Calif.
Col. John T. Axton, Washington, D. C.
Judge ~~D. Wilbur Curtis~~, San Francisco, Calif. Curtis D. Wilbur
Rev. Chas. E. Jefferson, New York City.
Mr. G. Sherwood Eddy, New York City.
Mr. Fred B. Smith, New York City.
Mr. Franklin H. Warner, New York City.
Mr. Wm. G. Green, Waterbury, Ct.
Pres. Mary E. Woolley, Mt. Holyoke College, Hadley, Mass.
Miss Jane Addams, Hull House, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. E. A. Evans, 241 West 97th St., New York City.
Mrs. Mary W. Herring, New York City.
Rev. J. C. Olden, Washington, D. C.